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WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT

FIRST REPORT

FROM

April 1st to December 31st

1927

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

To the Chairman and Members
of the Welwyn Garden City
Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the period April 1st to December 31st, 1927.

The report has been drawn up as far as possible in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular No. 834 dated 15th December, 1927.

I am indebted to Captain W. E. James, your Surveyor, for particulars regarding the water supply and main drainage system.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. F. J. Osborn, Clerk to the Council, and Mr. A. N. Ballard, Assistant Clerk to the Council, for the help they have given me, also to Mr. F. Allison, your Sanitary Inspector, whose loyal co-operation has been of the greatest assistance.

I have the honour to remain,
Your obedient Servant,

H. W. GRATTAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BRIDGE ROAD,
WELWYN GARDEN CITY.

April, 1928.

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1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	2,460
Population (December 31st, 1927)	6,236
Number of inhabited houses (1927)	1,699
Assessable Value	£45,815
Sum represented by a penny rate	£183

2.—EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population.

The estimated mid-yearly figure of 5,048 was supplied by the Registrar General for the purpose of calculating the birth and death rates.

Births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	54	51	105
Illegitimate	2	1	3

Birth rate per thousand of population 21·4.

The birth rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1927 was 16·7.

Deaths.

	M.	F.	Total.
All causes	11	14	25

Death rate per thousand of population 5·0.

The death rate from all causes for the whole of England and Wales for 1927 was 12·3.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—

From puerperal sepsis ...	1
From other causes	0

Two deaths occurred in infants under one year of age, and the death rate per thousand *births* was 18·51.

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1927 was 69.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

The following table gives the causes of death :—

	Males.	Females.
Scarlet Fever	—	1
Influenza	1	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	—	1
Other tuberculous disease	—	1
Cancer, Malignant disease	3	5
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	2	—
Heart Disease		1
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1
Acute and chronic nephritis		1
Puerperal sepsis	—	1
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	1	—
Deaths from violence	2	—
Other defined diseases	1	2
All causes ...	11	14

3.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.
Smallpox	0 ...	0 ...	0
Diphtheria	7 ...	7 ...	0
Scarlet Fever	8 ...	7 ...	1
Pneumonia	0 ...	0 ...	2

ANALYSIS OF CASES NOTIFIED UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 6	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	1	2	—	—	—

N.B. 9 cases of Diphtheria and 1 case of Scarlet fever in addition to the above occurred during the first quarter of the year and are recorded in the report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Welwyn Rural District.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases. Pulmonary M.	New Cases. Pulmonary F.	New Cases. Non-pulmonary M.	New Cases. Non-pulmonary F.	Deaths. Pulmonary M.	Deaths. Pulmonary F.	Deaths. Non-pulmonary M.	Deaths. Non-pulmonary F.
15 ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	4	2	—	—	—	1	—	—

The total number of notifications of cases of tuberculosis was 23, of which 17 had been previously notified.

No deaths from tuberculosis occurred in non-notified cases.

4.—INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Protection against Diphtheria.

The desirability of providing facilities for the voluntary immunisation against Diphtheria has been brought to the notice of the Council, and the matter is still under consideration.

Closure of Schools.

It has not been necessary to close any of the schools on account of sickness for the period April 1st to December 31st, 1927. Peartree Infants School, however, was closed from February 15th to April 1st on account of an outbreak of Influenza and Diphtheria.

5.—SUMMARY (for reference) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS & OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

The Health Council and The Welwyn Garden City Health Association.

This Voluntary Institution is doing most valuable work and merits the support of the public in every possible way. The Health Council consists of the local members of the Medical Profession, six members elected by the Health Association and thirteen representative members elected by the Urban District Council and by firms and Trades operating in the Garden City.

The Health Association may help members in some of the following ways ;—by supplying hospital letters, by part payment of ambulance transport to hospital, by providing first aid treatment (free) for the first 24 hours after an accident, and the services of a District Nurse. The Association also supplies Maternity Nurses at a reduced rate, and free consultations at the Infant Welfare and the Ante-Natal Clinics.

Also dental treatment (from 6d. per attendance and from 2/6 for gas) for Nursing Mothers and Children attending the Infant Welfare Clinic, Mothers attending the Ante-Natal Clinic and Children attending the Dental Clinic.

In addition the Association has under its auspices a Massage Clinic and an Electric Radiant Heat Bath (from 1/- per treatment).

The minimum subscription is one penny per week.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, 30 High Oaks Road, Welwyn Garden City.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The time when these Institutions are open is given below :—

Clinic.	Place.	Time.	Date.
Infant Welfare ...	Lawrence Hall	2 to 4 p.m.	Every Thursday
,, ,, ...	Peartree Club House	3.30 p.m.	Every Tuesday
Ante-Natal ...	Lawrence Hall	2 to 4 p.m.	First Friday in every month
Dental	Lawrence Hall	2 to 4 p.m.	First and fourth Mondays

Tuberculosis.

The nearest available clinics are (1) at Hatfield at the residence of Mrs. Cowles, Church Street, where the Tuberculosis Officer attends on the second and fourth Mondays at 11.30 a.m ; and (2) at the County Medical Office, Hertford, on Mondays at 2 p.m.

Venereal Disease.

Treatment is provided free of cost at a London Hospital under arrangements made by the County Council.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

Hospital.	Situation.	Authority.	Accommodation.
(1) Tuberculosis	County Sanatorium Ware Park	County Council	
(2) Maternity ...	None		
(3) Children ...	None		
(4) Isolation ...	(*a*) Hitchin Road, Letchworth	Hitchin & Letchworth Joint Hospital Board	
	(*b*) Gallows Hill, Hertford	Hertford & Ware Joint Hospital Board	
(5) Smallpox ...	Hitchin Road, Langley, nr. Hitchin	Hitchin & Letchworth Joint Hospital Board	
(6) Mental ...	Three Counties Mental Hospital, Stotfold, Beds.	County Council	
(7) Infirmary ...	Poor Law Institution Hatfield	Guardians	

Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

None except that provided by the Guardians at the Infirmary, Hatfield.

Ambulance facilities.

(*a*) For infectious cases. Motor Ambulances stationed at the (1) Letchworth and (2) Hertford and Ware Isolation Hospitals.

(*b*) For non-infectious cases and accidents. Motor Ambulance stationed at the County Hospital, Hertford.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological Examinations.

Arrangements have been made whereby members of the Medical Profession practising in the district can obtain bacteriological reports (free of charge) in cases of diphtheria, enteric fever, tuberculosis and meningitis. In the case of tuberculosis, outfits for

collecting specimens for examination can be obtained on application from the County Medical Office, Hertford, or from the Tuberculosis Officers at one of the dispensaries. These examinations are carried out at the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 91, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4. During the year 33 examinations were made.

Provision of Anti-toxin.

Members of the Medical Profession practising in the district can obtain a supply of diphtheria anti-toxin free of charge. The anti-toxin is kept at the "Hollies" Nursing Home, Elm Gardens, Welwyn Garden City.

A supply of sterile throat swabs and outfits for Widals Tests are also available at this Institution.

7.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Milk Supply.

There are two wholesale traders, 5 retail purveyors and two cowkeepers and milk producers on the register.

A considerable amount of milk is produced outside the district on registered premises under the supervision of four different Local Authorities.

Welwyn Dairy Farms Ltd. control three farms, two of which (Digswell Lodge Farm and Woodhall Lodge Farm) are in the district, while the third (Stanborough Farm) is situated in Hatfield Rural District.

About three-fifths of the milk supply to the Garden City is distributed by Welwyn Stores Ltd., through their Central Milk Depôt at Lower Handside Farm. This depôt has been organized under the direction of the Research Professor in Dairy Bacteriology, University College, Reading. The buildings at this farm have been reconstructed during the year and the drainage overhauled. The various buildings have been fitted with modern equipment for sterilising dairy utensils, etc., and for bottling milk on an extensive scale.

The staff of this depôt include a trained bacteriologist. The Laboratory is equipped with means for producing nutrient media and for the bacteriological and chemical examination of milk and dairy produce after modern methods.

Water Supply.

Water is supplied to the town by Welwyn Garden City Ltd., and is obtained from deep bore-holes in the chalk formation.

The pumping station is situated in the valley of the Mimram (a tributary of the Lea) near the northern boundary of the Urban District, where the water is raised to reservoirs on the Sherrards Woods ridge in the north western quarter of the district.

The results of the examination of samples of the water show a high degree of bacteriological and chemical purity. Samples are taken periodically and the results have been invariably very satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The town is sewered on the separate system. Surface water is drained to the valleys of the Lea and Mimram rivers, which bound the district on the south and north respectively.

Foul-water is gathered by tributary sewers to the main trunk sewer which traverses the town from south-west to north-east and discharges into sewage disposal works in the north-east corner of the District. The whole drainage system is new and in a satisfactory condition.

The system of disposal consists of detritus tanks, screens, continuous-flow settlement tanks, dosing tanks and percolating filters fed through revolving sprinklers. Both sludge and effluent are discharged on the surface of adjoining farm lands without nuisance, the Lea Conservancy Regulations prohibiting the discharge of any new effluent into the rivers.

There is a small temporary disposal works for the drainage of the south-western area. This plant is similar in character to the permanent works described above. It is intended in the near future to substitute an ejector plant for this temporary works and to treat the whole of the sewage at the permanent works which are to be extended within the next twelve months.

The surface drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal of the town are carried out by Welwyn Garden City Ltd. The details of the scheme have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Health.

During the year 1927 no extensions have been made except by the addition of a few small tributary sewers and drains.

Scavenging.

House refuse is collected under contract with the Council once a week and is disposed of by tipping in an old gravel pit near the southern boundary of the district under a very stringent specification with satisfactory results at present. The collection is regular, bins are disinfected each week and there is no nuisance of any kind from the refuse tip.

There are a few cesspools connected with old cottages near the boundaries of the district. These are periodically pumped out by Welwyn Garden City Ltd. (the owners of the properties) and the contents disposed of by spreading on farm lands.

There are in the old dwellings referred to above, a number of pail closets which are emptied by the tenants. As the drainage system of the town extends, these are being converted to the water-carriage system.

8.—PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

One Medical Officer of Health (part time only).

One Sanitary Inspector, who is also Housing Manager for the Council.

The present office accommodation provided for the Public Health Staff consists of part of one room only. The question of additional accommodation is now under consideration by the Council.

Factories and Workshops.

1. INSPECTIONS (including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	14	1	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	2	—	—
Total ...	16	1	—

2. DEFECTS found in factories, workshops and workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of defects		
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts	—	—	—
Other nuisances	1	1	—
Total ...	1	1	—

9.—HOUSING.

The following table shews the number of houses built by the Council.

Scheme No	Situation.	Acres.	No. of houses.	Type.	Rent	Act built under.	Year completed.
1	Youngs Rise ...	4·6	50	2	8/9	1919	1922
	Elm Gardens ...			3	10/3		
	Applecroft Road ...			4	11/9		
2	Guessens Road ...	7·5	93	1	6/6	1923	1924
	Lanefield Walk ...			2	7/-		
					7/6		
				3	8/-		
3	Longcroft Lane ...	8·9	100	1	7/9	1923	1925
	Birdcroft Road ...			2	8/9		
				3	9/3		
4	Ludwick Way ...	20·4	200*	1	7/9	1923	1927
	Knella Road District			2	11/6		
				3	12/6		
				4	13/6		
	Total ...	41·4	443				

Type 1 Non-parlour and 2 bedrooms.
2 ,, ,, 3 ,,
3 Parlour and 3 bedrooms.
4 Parlour and 4 bedrooms.

Rates and water rate are payable in addition.

*150 of these houses are provided with sheds at an additional rent of 4d. per week.

New houses erected during the year.

A. Total (including number given under B) ...	83
B. With state assistance under the Housing Acts—	
1. By the Local Authority	0
2. By other bodies or persons	83

1. *Inspection of dwelling houses during the year—*

a. Total No. of houses inspected for defects ...	155*
b. No. of dwelling houses (including under sub-head (1) above) which were recorded under the Housing Consolidated regulations ...	1
c. No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
d. No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	Nil

2. *Remedy of defects* during the year without service of notice ... ... Nil

No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action of the Local Authority or their Officers ... ... Nil

3. *Action under statutory powers during the year.*

a. Proceedings under Sec. 3, Housing Act, 1925	Nil
b. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts—	
(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	112
(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice—	
a. By Owner	112
b. By Local Authority in default of owner	Nil
c. No. of representations made with a view to making a closing order ...	1
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made ...	1
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the houses being rendered fit	Nil
No. of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ...	1
No. of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	1

*This figure refers to inspections made by your Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1927.

To The Chairman and Members
of the Welwyn Garden City
Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my First Report of the Sanitary Work carried out during the nine months ending the 31st December, 1927.

The Parish of Welwyn Garden City was created an Urban District on 1st April, 1927, *vide* sections 3 and 4 of the Hertfordshire (Welwyn Garden City Urban District) Confirmation Order, 1927.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER. Welwyn Garden City has an abundant supply of excellent water of high bacterial purity, derived from deep wells in the chalk, and distributed by the Water Company. A few of the smaller houses on the outskirts of the district obtain their water from shallow wells.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. A small portion of the River Mimram, about three-quarters of a mile in length, runs through the Northern portion of the district. No complaint has been received, nor has any evidence been forthcoming that it is being polluted.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The drainage of the district is on the water carriage system, and is mainly separate in character, the whole of the soil water sewage being dealt with by filtration at the Valley Road and Black Fan Sewage Works.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The closet accommodation is on the water carriage system, with the exception of a few small houses, rural in character, on the outskirts of the district, where the pail system is generally in operation, and where the occupants arrange to bury the contents in their gardens.

5. SCAVENGING, &C. Houses have galvanised iron dust bins for refuse. All house refuse is collected weekly by Contractor's horse-drawn vehicles, and tipped on a dump near the 20th Mile Bridge. The refuse dump is well kept and free from nuisance.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The total number of inspections made during the year was 229. In connection with 210 premises visited, sanitary defects to the number of 112 were discovered, and the necessary action taken to have these remedied.

For this purpose 112 informal notices and one statutory notice were issued.

The holding of the two offices, *i.e.*, Sanitary Inspector and Housing Manager for the Council's Housing Schemes, seems to work well in practice. It is found that tenants of Council Houses readily complain of unhygienic conditions when such conditions exist, and remedial measures are put in hand immediately nuisances are discovered; authority for such action being obtained at the next meeting of the Housing, Public Health and Sanitary Committee.

Of the informal notices sent, 89 were references to the Housing Department, for nuisances or defects found in Council Houses.

There were four complaints received of an annoyance from barking dogs. It is not generally understood that this is a Common Law nuisance and not a Statutory nuisance under the Public Health Acts, consequently the Council's Health Officials cannot insist on a remedy for barking dogs. All the complaints were referred to the Hertfordshire Constabulary, who have certain powers for controlling dogs.

References to the Surveyor's Department numbered seventy-five. These principally consisted of complaints of nuisances from full dust bins at a period when the Council changed the Contractor who undertook the work of house refuse collection. This work is now proceeding smoothly, and almost without complaint.

The Council's Surveyor, who has charge of the refuse collection and disposal work, refers complaints of defective dust bins which are brought to his notice to the Public Health Department, and twenty-one such complaints have been received and suitable action taken where necessary.

The following is a summary of the inspections made, also a list of the various repairs executed or improvements carried out during the period under review.

NOTICES SERVED.

Number of intimation notices served, dealing with 112 houses	112
Number of Statutory notices served, dealing with one house	1
All notices were complied with and nuisances abated. No prosecutions were necessary ...	—

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT AFTER INTIMATION TO THE OWNER OR OCCUPIER.

Nuisances Dealt with.

DWELLING HOUSES.

Roof guttering repaired or renewed	27
Nuisances from damp houses remedied	3
Cases of overcrowding abated	5
Galvanised dust bins provided or renewed	18
Dirty houses cleansed	2

DRAINS.

Drains unstopped and cleansed	33
House and premises redrained	1
New cover to inspection chamber	1

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, &C.

New W.C. basins fixed	2
Defective W.C.s repaired	1
W.C. soilpipe unstopped	1
Sink and bath waste pipes unstopped	11
Door provided to W.C. apartments	1

MISCELLANEOUS.

Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	1
Nuisance from defective gas geyser	1
Foul dustbin cleansed	1
A number of offensive empty fishboxes removed ...	1
Nuisance from manure dump	1
Refuse incinerator removed	1
	112

Summary of Inspections.

Routine and Special inspections	18
Re-inspections after notice	8
Visits to works in progress	3
Inspections of Workshops	2
,, ,, Factories	14
,, ,, Food Stores	4
,, ,, Cowsheds	4
Inspection of Dairies	2
,, ,, Licensed Premises	1
No. of Houses examined	155
,, ,, Rooms ,, ...	901
,, ,, Houses found clean	153
,, ,, ,, ,, dirty	2
No. of infected premises disinfected	15
,, ,, visits *re* infectious disease	15
,, ,, ,, to Railway Station	1
,, ,, ,, ,, Garage	1
,, ,, ,, ,, Sewage Works	1
,, ,, ,, ,, Farms	4
,, ,, ,, ,, Schools	10
,, ,, ,, ,, Manure and Refuse Dumps	3
,, ,, Refuse Train observations	6

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Smoke observations made	5

In each case the excessive smoke was reduced immediately, on my taking up the matter with the owner or occupier of the premises concerned.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

There are no such premises in the district, nor are any such bye-laws in force.

SCHOOLS.

There are six schools, two of which are Public Elementary Schools. The water is obtained from the town's public supply.

No. of visits to Public Elementary Schools ...	10
,, ,, Nuisances discovered	2
,, ,, ,, abated	2

Infected Premises.

DISINFECTION.

No. of infected premises disinfected	14
,, ,, ,, taxis ,, ...	1

LIBRARY BOOKS.

When investigating cases of infectious disease, enquiries are made to ascertain if any library books are on the premises. During the year two such books were found to belong to a London Public Library, who gave authority for them to be burned, and this was accordingly done.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

DAIRIES, MILKSHOPS AND COWSHEDS.

(*a*) MILK SUPPLY.

Within the district there are two cowsheds, containing respectively thirty-nine and forty milch cows ; total seventy-nine.

There are four purveyors registered for the sale of milk in the district, but whose premises are outside the area.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS, &C.

RETAIL PURVEYORS.

Applications for Registration	5
Granted	5
Total on Register	5

WHOLESALE TRADERS.

Applications for Registration	2
Granted	2
Total on Register	2

COWKEEPERS AND PRODUCERS.

Applications for Registration	2
Granted	2
Total on Register	2

GRADE A (TUBERCULIN TESTED) MILK.

Applications to bottle and distribute	1
Licence granted	1

Toward the end of the period under review, an application was received from Welwyn Stores Ltd. to bottle and sell Grade A (TT) milk produced at Viscount Hampden's Dairy Farm, The Hoo, Kimpton, Welwyn, the Ministry of Health having granted the necessary producer's licence. Welwyn Stores Ltd. have installed a well-equipped laboratory at their Dairy and all milk is subjected to a bacteriological examination on arrival, the firm employing their own Bacteriologist.

Arrangements have now been made for samples to be submitted from time to time to the Council's Bacteriologist, and the result of each test will be reported to the Council for their information.

MEAT, &C.

The system of meat inspection in operation comprises irregular visits to the two stores. There are no slaughterhouses in the district.

No. of official inspections of Food Stores 4

There was no unsound food required to be dealt with during the year.

ADULTERATION, &C.

The Food and Drugs and Allied Acts, the Rats and Mice Destruction Order and the Contagious Diseases Animals Acts are administered by the County Authorities under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Constable of Hertfordshire.

Factory and Workshop Acts.

The following is a list of Factories and Workshops on the Register at the end of the year (Sec. 131 Factory and Workshops Act, 1901) :—

Baker and Confectioner	1
Builders	4
Laundry	1
Corset Makers	1
Brickworks	2
Engineers	1
Foundry	1
Toy Manufacturers	1
Food Factories	2
Total ...	14

No. of Inspections made to Factories and Workshops (including Bakery and Laundry)	16
No. of Nuisances discovered	1
,, ,, ,, abated	1

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS.

As your Sanitary Inspector, I have attended the following Meetings :—

Sub-Committees	2
Housing, Public Health and Sanitary Committees	11
Council Meetings	10
Total ...	23

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I desire to express my appreciation of the support given to me by your Council in the carrying out of my duties.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. ALLISON,

Sanitary Inspector.

Creasey & Sons
PRINTERS, HERTFORD.